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Hong Kong - Communist China: Local Communist leaders are cautioning their followers that help cannot be expected from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to "liberate" Hong Kong.

At a Communist meeting in Hong Kong on 23 August, the day after the attack on the British Embassy in Peking,

[redacted] stressed the long-term nature of the struggle. He told his subordinates that they must depend on their own resources. He declared physical violence "unnecessary," and concluded that Hong Kong could be strangled by economic means, the method he felt was best.

The emphasis on economic rather than terrorist methods may have been tailored to the labor audience. In other circles, different tactics may be recommended. There seems to be a certain unanimity concerning self-reliance, however. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] the PLA should not be relied upon to come to their aid in the struggle, which he stated would be "prolonged, difficult, and cruel."

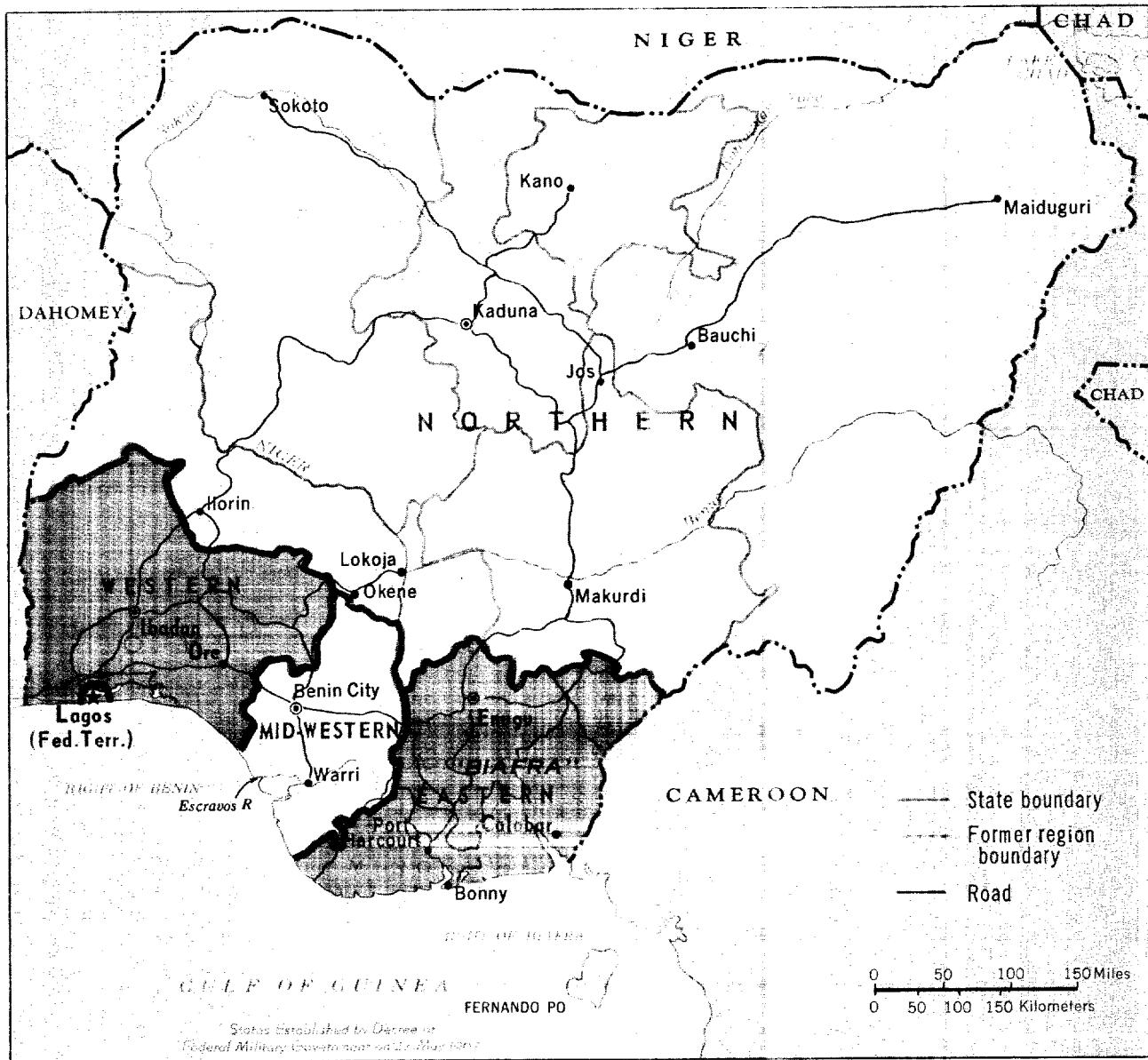
Action by the PLA at the border yesterday, when it restrained mobs of Chinese attempting to cross and harass the troops on the Hong Kong side, suggests that these assessments are accurate. The Chinese military apparently are willing to allow small numbers of howling activists to cross the border, but they continue to act against any crowd which risks a large engagement.

The British authorities believe the local Communist rank and file will now concentrate on preparations for the National Day celebration on 1 October. Communist leaders apparently hope to demonstrate the solidarity of the Communist movement in the colony and draw attention from recent setbacks, which have hurt morale.

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Nigeria: Nigeria's civil war is intensifying, but neither side has gained a decisive advantage.

Federal military leaders appear to have been put off balance temporarily by Biafra's initiatives in the Western state, reportedly aimed at Ibadan. Sizable federal reinforcements have been committed, however, and Lagos claims to have halted the Biafran advance at Ore along the main road to Lagos.

Federal leader Gowon has acquired the services of four Ethiopian jet pilots, who were seen in Lagos on 21 August. Ethiopia presumably supplied the pilots as part of its policy of strong support for the federal government. The Ethiopians, probably qualified jet pilots, could see action fairly soon. Gowon is said to have told his air force commander to put each new plane into the air as soon as it is ready for combat.

On the other hand, a substantial amount of heavy military equipment has arrived at the port of Calabar in Biafra. Tracked armored personnel carriers and possibly half tracks have been seen on trucks passing through Enugu on 22 and 23 August. Additional military supplies are being brought in by air.

The Biafrans have also infiltrated a number of agents into the West and Lagos. Some are trying to stir up Yoruba activists to take over the Western state government and secede from the federation. Others are reported to have entered Lagos to assassinate Gowon and the Lagos state governor. Federal police are aware of Ibo infiltration, but sabotage or assassination attempts could occur at any time. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] (Map)

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South Arabian Federation: Disorders have spread in the British-protected federation, and the role of the federal army is becoming decisive as local state rulers look to it to maintain order.

Most of the troubles stem from long-standing tribal and personal rivalries which surfaced after the British withdrew from these areas in June. Rulers recently have been deposed, kidnaped, or forced to flee in four states in the hinterland.

Although the two rival nationalist groups, the National Liberation Front (NLF) and the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (FLOSY), have tried to take credit for the incidents, tribal dissidents traditionally link up with various nationalist groups for reasons of expediency. Neither the NLF nor FLOSY has been able to set itself up in power in any of the states, although the new ruler of one has NLF connections.

So far, the South Arabian Army appears to be in control of the situation and has demonstrated its ability to put down minor dissidence. The 8,000-man army has shown itself to be the only unified body in the federation with any strength, and seems almost certain to play the decisive role after the British withdraw totally. Most of the army personnel are tribally oriented and sympathize with the anti-Cairo NLF.

The British have recently announced that their withdrawal from the federation will be completed by 3 December, a month earlier than previously planned. So far, all efforts to form a successor government have collapsed, and this may further advance the timetable.

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Thailand: The Communist insurgents in northeast Thailand appear to be shifting from aggressive military activity to strengthening their organization at the village level.

Recent statistics show that armed encounters with government security forces have been decreasing since the record high levels set in March.

There has been a step-up, however, in food-gathering forays, assassinations of government officials and informants, and other acts of intimidation. In an apparent effort to improve access to local food sources, some of the insurgent groups have been reorganized into smaller elements.

Recent interrogations of captives and defectors, including an alternate member of the central committee of the Thai Communist Party, show that the insurgents are having morale problems as a result of supply shortages and government security patrols. One defector stated that his group was attempting to recruit villagers for logistic support rather than as guerrillas.

Although the insurgents will probably make adjustments to overcome their short-term difficulties, it is clear that their capabilities are still seriously handicapped by organizational deficiencies and the lack of grass-roots support. [redacted]

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NOTE

France-Canada: Paris' announcement of increased aid to Quebec probably represents only the implementation of accords signed in 1965 and earlier this year. These provided for increased cooperation in the cultural, economic, and technical sphere--notably atomic energy and satellite telecommunications. With reductions in its 1968 foreign aid budget likely, France is unlikely to make major increases in aid to Quebec. The announcement was no doubt intended to underline that De Gaulle is not retreating from the position he took in Quebec.

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